



Iranian
political prisoner

Mahdiah Golroo

Born August 25, 1985 in Tehran, Iran

Mahdiah Golroo, a student and women's rights activist, was imprisoned along with her husband on November 3, 2009, after security forces raided their home. Mahdiah's arrest followed her participation in a 4-day sit-in at Allameh Tabatabai University to protest politically motivated education bans on university students.

Mahdiah had previously been expelled from Allameh Tabatabai University due to her work for the Right to Education Council and she was not allowed to graduate and receive her degree. Mahdiah was also an active member of the Committee to Defend Citizens' Rights in Mehdi Karrubi's presidential campaign headquarters.

After her and her husband's arrest in November 2010, and before her trial, she was held for five consecutive months. The bail necessary for her release on parole was set at \$500,000—a sum too large for her family to secure.

Mahdiah's trial was held on April 5, 2010 in front of Judge Pir-Abassi in the 26th branch of the Revolutionary Court. Judge Pir-Abassi sentenced Mahdiah to 28 months in prison. She has been charged with "anti-state propaganda," "assembly and conspiracy to disturb public order," and "having contacts with the Mujahedeen-e Khalq." Mahdiah denies all the charges.

Mahdiah's husband, Vahid Lalipoor, was arrested despite no prior political activities. He was held in Evin prison until March 2010, in an effort by the authorities to secure a televised confession from Mahdiah.

In January 2011, the authorities filed another charge against Mahdiah of "disturbing public order" while in prison. The charge came after Mahdiah jointly issued a letter for Student Day (which commemorates events on December 7, 1953) with fellow student activists and political prisoners Bahareh Hedayat and Majid Tavakoli.

Mahdiah remains in the women's ward of Evin prison and has repeatedly been denied visitation rights and the right to medical treatment for her health problems (intestinal complications). Her family claims that her condition "poses serious danger to her health." The Evin prison clinic has denied her medical treatment on numerous occasions. Mahdiah has gone on hunger strike multiple times to protest her treatment.